

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Enclosed herewith is a Change of Address for the present application.

Status of the Application:

Status of the Claims: Claims 11 to 25 are pending. Claims 13 to 20 and 22 to 24 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph; claims 11, 12, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b); claims 13 to 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a); claims 23 is allowable if presented in independent form and if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph; and claim 25 is allowed.

Status of the Description: The Description is objected to.

Status of the Abstract: Abstract is objected to.

Status of the Drawings: The Drawings are objected to.

Status of the priority claim: The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of a certified copy of the application under 35 USC 119(a)-(d) and 35 USC.365 and 371.

Status of the Information Disclosure Statement: The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed by the applicant.

Extension: Enclosed herewith is a Petition to Extend the term for response by two months to December 14, 2004.

Amendment to the Description:

The Description has been amended at page 1, immediately after the Title, to insert a new paragraph indicating the benefit of a priority claim under 35 USC 119 and 365 and 371.

In response to the objection to the Description has been amended at page 7, after line 2, to insert new paragraphs directed to a Brief Description of Figures 3, 4 and 5, as originally filed.

Amendment to the Abstract:

In response to the objection to the Abstract, a new Abstract is presented that is believed to comply with MPEP § 608.01(b).

Drawing Objection:

In response to the objection to the Drawing, Figure 1, enclosed herewith is a Replacement Sheet 1/3 and an Annotated Sheet 1/3 in which legends have been added to the blocks.

Rejection of Claims 13 to 20 and 22 to 24 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph:

Claims 13 to 20 and 22 to 24 have been amended to recite antecedent basis for the noted claim elements.

Rejection of Claims 11, 12, 19, 21, 22 and 24 under 35 USC 102(b) and Rejection of Claims 13 to 18 under 35 USC 103(a):

Claims 11, 12, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hibbard et al., US 6,266,453 and claims 13 to 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibbard et al., US 6,266,453. The rejection under 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) is traversed for the following reasons.

This application claims the benefit of a priority under 35 USC 119 and 365 and 371 to French Patent Application No. 99 05438 filed April 29, 1999. The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of a certified copy of this French patent application in the National Stage application from the International Bureau. The cited Hibbard et al. has a publication date of July 24, 2001 and a filing date of July 26, 1999. An English language translation of International Application No. PCT/IB00/606 (PCT/US00/11617) was filed with the entry into the US National Stage under 35 USC 371. Neither the publication date nor the filing date of Hibbard et al. is earlier than the priority date of the present application. Accordingly, Hibbard et al. is not qualified as prior art and claims 11 to 24 are believed to be allowable and Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 11, 12, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b):

Claims 11, 12, 19, 21, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hibbard et al., US 6,266,453. Claim 25 is indicated as being allowable over Hibbard et al., US 6,266,453. The rejection under 325 USC 102(b) is traversed for the following reasons.

Claims 11 and 24 are amended to recite in claims 11 and 24 the subject matter of allowable claim 25. Accordingly, claims 11 and 24 are considered allowable and Notice thereof is respectfully requested. Claims 12, 19, 21, and 22 are each dependent on claim 11 and are considered allowable for the same reasons as claim 11 and Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 13 to 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a):

Claims 13 to 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hibbard et al., US 6,266,453. The rejection under 325 USC 103(a) is traversed for the following reasons.

Claims 13 to 18 are each dependent on claim 11 and are considered allowable for the same reasons as claim 11 and Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

New Claims 26 to 33:

New claims 26 to 33 are presented herewith and are each dependent on claim 11 or claim 25. Claims 26 to 33 are considered patentable for the same reasons as claims 11 and 25 and Notice thereof is respectfully requested.


In light of the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's objections to the Description, Abstract and Drawing have been satisfied and the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been traversed, that no new matter or elements have been submitted, and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw these rejections and objections.

The Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests Notice thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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